



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of November 15, 2004

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

CABINET SHAKEUP BEGINS – In the wake of President George W. Bush's election victory Nov. 2, six Cabinet-level secretaries have announced their intentions to leave their positions: Attorney General John Ashcroft, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, Education Secretary Rod Paige, Commerce Secretary Donald Evans and Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman. So far, the president has only named White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales as his nominee for Attorney General, but news reports indicate that President Bush will nominate National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to succeed Powell. It's not certain when each of the resigning officials will leave their posts, but it is likely that most of them will remain in their positions until their replacements are confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

To view resignation letters, click below (Some require Adobe Acrobat to view):

Powell: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/documents/cabinetresignations/powell.pdf>

Abraham:

http://www.doe.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=16880&BT_CODE=PR_PRESSRELEASES&T_CODE=PRESSRELEASE

Veneman: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/documents/cabinetresignations/veneman.pdf>

Paige: <http://www.ed.gov/news/staff/bios/paige-resignation.html>

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2004

On Monday, the House will not be in session.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2004

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (8 bills):

(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)

1) H.Res. 641 - Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

- 2) **S. 2640 - "Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building" Designation Act** (*Reno, Nevada*)
- 3) **S. 2214 - "Mike Mansfield Post Office" Designation Act** (*Missoula, Montana*)
- 4) **S. 2693 - "Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office" Designation Act** (*Albany, N.Y.*)
- 5) **H.Res. 750 - Recognizing the 130th anniversary of the creation of lifesaving stations on the Great Lakes, which became part of the United States Life-Saving Service**
- 6) **H.R. 4516 - Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004:** Directs the Secretary of Energy to: (1) implement a research and development program involving software and hardware development) to advance high-end computing systems; and (2) develop and deploy them for advanced scientific and engineering applications.
- 7) **S.Con.Res. 121 - Supporting the goals and ideals of the World Year of Physics**
- 8) **H.J.Res. 110 - Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2004 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. On Friday, the House may meet at 9 a.m.

Suspensions (13 bills):

- 1) **S. 2484 - Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Enhancement Act of 2004:** To simplify and improve pay provisions for physicians and dentists and to authorize alternate work schedules and executive pay for nurses.
- 2) **S. 2486 - Veterans Benefits Improvements Act of 2004:** To improve and enhance education, housing, employment, medical, and other benefits for veterans and to improve and extend certain authorities relating to the administration or benefits for veterans.
- 3) **H.R. 3936 - Veterans Health Programs Improvement Act of 2004:** To improve and enhance education, housing, employment, medical, and other benefits for veterans and to improve and extend certain authorities relating to the administration or benefits for veterans
- 4) **H.R. 4593 - Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004:** To establish wilderness areas, promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for the high quality development in Lincoln County, Nevada
- 5) **S. 437 - Arizona Water Settlements Act:** To provide for adjustments to the Central Arizona Project in Arizona, to authorize the Gila River Indian Community water rights settlement, to reauthorize and amend the Southern Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act of 1982
- 6) **S. 1466 - Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act of 2003:** To facilitate the transfer of land in the State of Alaska.
- 7) **S. 1727 - To authorize additional appropriations for the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978:** Amends the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to increase funding levels for projects to preserve the structural safety of Bureau of Reclamation dams and related facilities. Increases the ceiling (from \$750,000 to \$1.25 million) on the amount that may be obligated for dam modifications prior to 30 calendar days from the date that the Secretary has reported on the safety of the existing dam to Congress.

8) S. 1241 - Kate Mullany National Historic Site Act: To establish the Kate Mullany National Historic Site. Mullany, a leading female labor organizer in the nineteenth century, worked for justice and opportunities for women in newly emerging industries after the Civil War. (*Troy, N.Y.*)

9) H.R. 1284 - To amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to increase the Federal share of the costs of the San Gabriel Basin demonstration project

10) H.R. 1113 - To authorize an exchange of land at Fort Frederica National Monument (*St. Simons Island, Georgia*)

11) S. 1146 - Three Affiliated Tribes Health Facility Compensation Act: Amends the Three Affiliated Tribes and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act to reauthorize appropriations for each of the Tribes' economic recovery fund. Authorizes appropriations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the construction of, and such sums as are necessary for other expenses relating to, a rural health care facility on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation of the Three Affiliated Tribes, North Dakota.

12) S. 2302 - To improve access to physicians in medically underserved areas: Amends the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 to reauthorize for a period of five years the "Conrad State 30" program, which annually allows each state to request up to 30 waivers of the home residency requirement applicable to J-1 foreign medical graduates for medical service by those graduates in health professional shortage areas. Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow state departments of public health to designate health professional shortage areas for purposes of the Conrad State 30 program (currently designated only by the Secretary of Health and Human Services).

13) H.R. 1417 - Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act of 2004: Amends Federal copyright law to repeal requirements regarding the establishment and purpose of copyright arbitration royalty panels and replaces them with requirements setting forth the appointment and functions of Copyright Royalty Judges. Replaces the occasional three-member copyright arbitration royalty panels with three full-time Copyright Royalty Judges, appointed by the Librarian of Congress.

** Possible Motions to go to Conference*

** Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees*

Historical Tidbits

On Nov. 15 ...

1777 - The Continental Congress approved the Articles of Confederation, precursor to the U.S. Constitution.

1939 - U.S. President Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, DC.

On Nov. 16 ...

1933 - The United States and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations for the first time.

1973 - U.S. President Nixon signed the Alaska Pipeline measure into law.

On Nov. 17 ...

1800 - The U.S. Congress held its first session in Washington, DC, in the partially completed Capitol building.

On Nov. 18 ...

1883 - The U.S. and Canada adopted a system of standard time zones.

1903 - The U.S. and Panama signed a treaty that granted the U.S. rights to build the Panama Canal.

1987 - The U.S. Congress issued the Iran-Contra Affair report. The report said that President Ronald Reagan bore "ultimate responsibility" for wrongdoing by his aides.

1993 - The U.S. House of Representatives joined the U.S. Senate in approving legislation aimed at protecting abortion facilities, staff and patients.

On Nov. 19 ...

1794 - The U.S. and Britain signed the Jay Treaty, which resolved the issues left over from the Revolutionary War.

1863 - U.S. President Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address as he dedicated a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War battlefield in Pennsylvania.

1919 - The U.S. Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles with a vote of 55 in favor to 39 against. A two-thirds majority was needed for ratification.

1985 - U.S. President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev met for the first time as they began their summit in Geneva.

1998 - The impeachment inquiry of U.S. President Clinton began.

2001 - U.S. President George W. Bush signed the most comprehensive air security bill in U.S. history.

(Information from <http://www.on-this-day.com>)